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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY USSR (Kalinin Oblast)

DATE DISTR. 25 April 1950

SUBJECT Aircraft at Two Airfields near Kalinin

NO. OF PAGES 2

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This document is hereby regraded to
CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the
letter of 13 October 1978 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the
Ambassador of the United States.
Review Date: 2008

NO. OF ENCLS. 2
(LISTED BELOW)25X1C PLACE
ACQUIRED [REDACTED]25X1A DATE OF
INFO. [REDACTED]SUPPLEMENT
REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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field in May 1948.

1. The large airfield west of KALININ (35°55'E/56°52'N), Kalinin Oblast, had two concrete runways crossing each other. One of them was at least 6,600 feet long. Four or five large hangars with vaulted black-tarred roofs were at the field.
2. Officer students attending the academy in town were being trained at the field.
3. Flying activity: From May to the Fall of 1948 there was intensive flying with twin-engine Pe-2s and conventional fighters. The Pe-2s made formation flights with up to 27 planes, firing practices, and night flights until September 1949. The conventional fighters practiced formation flying with up to seven planes until the Fall of 1948. Since that time, two jet aircraft types were occasionally observed, but, after February 1949, flying activities increased considerably. Type 1 planes (see sketch 1) were only observed making local flights and type 2 aircraft (see sketch 2) doing formation flights with up to 27 planes in the KALININ area.
4. Description of aircraft:
 - a. Pe-2: Two in-line engines, propeller about in line with nose tip, wings slightly dihedral, leading and trailing edges slightly tapering, rounded wing tips, double rudder assembly, elevator assembly not dihedral or swept back, long tortoise-shaped cockpit, glazed nose compartment. Glazed gunner's station on fuselage, landing gear retracting into engine nacelle, tail wheel retractable. Size similar to Ju-88. Speed from 215 to 250 mph. Paint blue-gray. Short antenna rod on fuselage with antenna leading to rudder assembly.
 - b. Jet aircraft of type 1 (see sketch 1): Silver sheen. Somewhat longer than Me-109, fuselage slim. Speed from 500 to 600 mph. Strikingly slow gliding at landing. Four "rods", about 6 inches long and similar in diameter to 20-mm AA gun,

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set around air intake at nose.

c. Jet aircraft of type 2 (see sketch 2): Silver sheen. Slightly longer than PE-109, slimmer fuselage, wings slightly longer than those of PE-109, span shorter by considerable sweep back. Streamline-shaped extra tank under fuselage. Speed from 620 to 740 mph.

5. Another airfield without runway or buildings was south of the railroad station, east of the road to the south. A wooden cantonment building was at the northern corner of the field.
6. Soviet civilians worked at the field as aircraft mechanics.
7. The following aircraft were parked on the edge of the field:
 - a. About 30 biplanes.
 - b. About 10 planes, believed to be Ar-96s.
8. Flying activity: Both jet aircraft types made local flights. Pilot students were apparently given initial flight training.

Comment:

a. The large military airfield west of KALININ with the improved runways and several large hangars is known from previous reports. The statement that the previously reported occupation by twin-engine bombers and single-engine fighters was replaced by jet fighters in the Fall of 1943 is considered to be confirmed.

b. This report describes a Pe-2 bomber type but the description in previous reports is definitely of the TU-2 bomber. It is considered possible that both aircraft types are stationed at the field.

c. The two jet aircraft types are not accurately reproduced on the attached sketches. Although the sketch of type 1 is not evaluable, it may be meant to reproduce a two-seat Yak jet trainer. The swept-wing design reproduced on sketch 2 (first described with drop tank under fuselage) is characterized by features of the 1943 design also incorporated by MIKOYAN and LAVOCHKIN for mass production.

d. It is assumed that a flying school for initial and advanced training, probably also for final fighter training and retraining on jet aircraft, is stationed there. The information on ground flying with up to 25 jet planes indicates that a jet fighter unit is also stationed at the field.

e. The information on the airfield south of KALININ confirms previous reports according to which a flying school for beginners is assumed to be there.

- 2 Annexes:
1. Jet Aircraft Type Observed at the KALININ Airfield
 2. Swept-Wing Jet Plane Observed at the KALININ Airfield